

lands. The well known interest of this gentleman in the cause of historical research, induced him to enter at once, cordially into the views of the State; and I gladly and gratefully embrace this opportunity to renew the expression of my thanks for those valuable counsels, and friendly efforts to further the objects of my appointment, which he was always ready to give, and anxious to make.

In order to obtain the necessary facilities for investigating the archives of the Netherlands, an application was addressed by Mr. Bleecker, on my behalf, to the Baron Verstolk de Soelen, Minister of Foreign Affairs. Upon my presentation to the King, a few days afterwards, His Majesty received me in the kindest manner, expressing much pleasure with the objects of my mission, and a warm interest in its successful accomplishment. The general direction of the Royal Archives being entrusted to the Minister of the Interior, the application was promptly referred to the Baron Schimmelpennick, the head of that department; and an interview was accordingly had with His Excellency, who at once informed me that he would give directions to the officer in charge of the archives, to afford me all facilities for the purpose of fully carrying out the objects of my commission, and which had been directed by the King himself, to be as liberal in their extent as the exigencies of the service would allow.

The Government Records at the Hague, are placed under the supervision of an "Archivarius," at present Yonkheer J. C. de Jonge, a gentleman of great intelligence and urbanity, and from whom I received numerous marks of kindness and courtesy, which I am happy to acknowledge. M. de Jonge, on my presenting myself at the archives, pointed out the various depositories in which the documents presumed to relate to the subject of my research were contained; and gave directions that every book and paper, known or supposed to contain information affecting our colonial history, be submitted, without reserve, to my inspection, and every arrangement made that could facilitate my labors.

The archives of the Netherlands, it is believed, constitute one of the richest depositories of historical information, to be found in Europe; commencing with the period of the Union of Utrecht, in 1579, and extending down to the French Revolution. They are contained in an immense suite of apartments in the old palace of the Binnenhof;